

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4166

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1693

FOR PETER CONSTABLE, NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, OVIP, EGEN, PK

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR BHUTTO'S NEW YORK

MEETING WITH SECRETARY FEBRUARY 26

1. NEA/PAB IS OF COURSE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ISSUES IN US-PAK RELATIONS AND WE KNOW YOU'LL BE HIGHLIGHTING THESE IN YOUR CUSTOMARY LUCID STYLE IN THE BRIEFING PAPERS GOING FORWARD FOR THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO FEBRUARY 26. IN PREPARING THESE PAPERS, YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ADDITION TO THE ONES YOU'RE ALREADY WELL AWARE OF.

2. MILITARY SUPPLY. WE'VE MENTIONED IN EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE THAT BHUTTO IS LIKELY TO RAISE THE A-7 ISSUE FOLLOWING UP AZIZ AHMED'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE INFORMED AGHA SHAHI OF OUR WILLINGNESS BOTH TO PERMIT A PAF INSPECTION TEAM TO VISIT THE LTV DALLAS PLANT AND TO ALLOW LTV TO PASS UNCLASSIFIED TECHNICAL DATA ON THE A-7 TO THE PAF. ODRP HAS SIMILARLY INFORMED AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ZULFIQAR. ALTHOUGH ZULFIQAR DID NOT INDICATE WHEN TEAM WOULD LEAVE FOR DALLAS, LTV REP HAS TOLD US COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE VISIT IN LATE MARCH. ADDITIONALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ARMED SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT FURTHER DISCUSSION TOPICS TO THE PRIME
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MINISTER. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO

HIM ON TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH YOU MIGHT WANT TO INCLUDE IN THE BRIEFING PAPER.

3. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE PAKISTAN NAVY HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ASK THE SECRETARY IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RECONSIDER OUR NEGATIVE DECISION ON SELLING THE JEZEBEL. THE NAVY ARGUES THAT SINCE THEY HAVE PURCHASED THE ATLANTIQUE FROM THE FRENCH, AND SINCE THEY ORIGINALLY THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE WILLING TO SELL THE JEZEBEL (ALTHOUGH THEY READILY ADMIT THEY HAD NO SOLID COMMITMENT FROM US), THEIR ASW CAPABILITY WILL NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS SYSTEM. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE PN THAT THEY CHECK WITH THE IRANISANS WHO HAVE P-3S WITH SOME ASW CAPABILITY TO SEE WHAT EQUIPMENT THEY USE, SINCE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE JEZEBEL.

4. MOD HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT BHUTTO RAISE THE QUESTION OF OUR NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY WITH THE SECRETARY. THE GOP'S CONCERN CENTERS ON THE CLEARANCE LEVEL FOR CATEGORY TWO - MILITARY MATERIAL AND MUNITIONS. IF THE ISSUE IS RAISED, WE EXPECT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL SAY THAT PAKISTAN HAS BEEN SCRUPOLOUS IN PROTECTING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IT HAS RECEIVED FROM US IN THE PAST (GENERALLY ON CENTO POLICY AND PLANS) AND WILL GIVE ANY ASSURANCES WE REQUIRE THAT THEY WILL PROTECT ANY INFORMATION OR MATERIEL THEY RECEIVE IN THE FUTURE. THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER PAKISTAN SHOULD BE GRANTED CONFIDENTIAL LEVEL CLEARANCE IN CATEGORY TWO WAS POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 4 (ISLAMABAD'S A-17).

5. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, WE ASSUME THAT BHUTTO WILL HAVE DISCUSSED CIEC AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE DURING HIS CANADIAN TRIP, SINCE THE CANADIAN EMBASSY RECEIVED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE ON THIS SUBJECT FROM MFA IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIP. WITH PAKISTAN TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMMISSIONS OF CIEC, AND WITH THE SUBJECT PROBABLY SOMEWHAT ON BHUTTO'S MIND, THIS MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR THE SECRETARY TO SAY A FEW WORDS TO BHUTTO ABOUT HOW WE REGARD THIS FORUM. IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE GOP, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO IMPRESS UPON PAKISTANI OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO REACHING PRACTICAL RESULTS AND AVOIDING STERILE CONFRONTATIONS. THIS ATTITUDE HAS STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD; PAKISTAN'S SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION MAKES THE GOP WELL AWARE THAT PAKISTAN NEEDS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER AGREEMENTS WHICH CIEC WILL BE WORKING ON. PAKISTANI OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED TO US, HOWEVER, THAT THEY BELIEVE A STRONG US LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CIEC WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF THESE PRACTICAL RESULTS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED. PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND WITH THE REST OF THE THIRD WORLD, MOREOVER, PUT PAKISTAN IN A DELICATE POSITION. WERE THE GOP TO BECOME DOUBTFUL OF OUR RESOLVE TO BRING THE CIEC COMMISSIONS TO AS SPEEDY AND FRUITFUL A CLOSE AS POSSIBLE, PAKISTAN WOULD

FIND IT HARD TO RESIST THE POLITICAL TEMPTATION TO JOIN THOSE
PRESSING FOR STRONGER THETORIC. BHUTTO WOULD ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFIC-
ANCE TO ANYTHING THE SECRETARY MIGHT SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE TO
THE US OF CIEC, OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND OF PAKISTAN'S
ROLE AS A FORCE FOR REASON IN THIS DIALOGUE.
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